

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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R 021451Z MAY 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6759  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1044

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, MILI, BQG  
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONSUL ASKS ABOUT KBW POSTERS CRITICAL OF BREZ-  
NEV

REF: (A) USBERLIN 0808, (B) USBERLIN 0832

SUMMARY: SOVIET CONSUL IN WEST BERLIN RAISED QUESTION OF KBW  
BREZHNEV POSTERS WITH USBER OFFICER, IMPLYING SOVIETS MAY HAVE  
TO TAKE ACTION TO REMOVE THEM IF ALLIES DON'T. MISSION OFFICER  
STRESSED SUCH ACTION BY SOVIETS WOULD BE IMPROPER AND REMINDED  
SOVIET CONSUL OF PROPER CHANNELS TO RAISE SUCH ISSUES. END  
SUMMARY.

1. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION APRIL 26, SOVIET CONSUL IN  
WEST BERLIN VALINTIN KOZOBRODOV ASKED MISSION OFFICER IF ALLIES  
HAD SEEN LATEST KBW WALL POSTERS WHICH INCLUDED CARICATURES OF  
PRESIDENT BREZHNEV AND OTHER WORLD LEADERS (INCLUDING CHANCELLOR  
SCHMIDT, PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN AND PRESIDENTS GISCARD AND  
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CARTER). KOZOBRODOV ASKED IF ALLIES INTENDED TO TAKE ACTION  
UNDER SECTOR ORDINANCE 501 AGAINST THE POSTERS. MISSION  
OFFICER RESPONDED ALLIES WERE AWARE OF THE POSTERS AND  
WERE STUDYING THE MATTER, BUT SAID NO CONCLUSIONS HAD AS  
YET BEEN REACHED. MISSION OFFICER ADDED THAT IT WAS  
ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT ALLIES WOULD DECIDE THAT KBW  
WALL POSTERS DID NOT VIOLATE SECTOR ORDINANCE 501. AFTER

FURTHER RELAXED EXCHANGE AS TO WHAT CONSTITUTES VIOLATION OF SECTOR ORDINANCE 501 AS OPPOSED TO BEING LEGITIMATE AND ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL CRITICISM, KOZOBRODOV SAID IN OFFHAND WAY THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR SOVIET MILITARY PATROLS TO "CLEAN THE WALLS." MISSION OFFICER RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY THAT IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR SOVIET MILITARY PATROLS TO TAKE SUCH AN ACTION. MISSION OFFICER SAID HE WOULD NOT EXPECT MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET ARMY TO ENGAGE IN HOOLIGANISM ANYMORE THAN THE ALLIES WOULD TOLERATE THEIR OWN SOLDIERS TEARING DOWN POSTERS IN EAST BERLIN, WHICH THE ALLIES OR INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS MIGHT CONSIDER OFFENSIVE. MISSION OFFICER CONCLUDED BY REMINDING KOZOBRODOV THAT WERE THE SOVIETS UNHAPPY WITH THE POSTERS, THERE WAS A PROPER WAY TO RAISE THE MATTER AND THEY KNEW WHAT IT WAS. BEFORE TURNING TO ANOTHER SUBJECT, KOZOBRODOV SOUGHT REASSURANCE THAT THE ALLIES WERE INVESTIGATING THE SITUATION AND WERE NOT IGNORING IT ENTIRELY. MISSION OFFICER GAVE KOZOBRODOV THAT ASSURANCE.

2. COMMENT: FRENCH MISSION, TO WHOM WE HAVE REPORTED THIS EXCHANGE, HAS EXPRESSED ALARM THAT KOZOBRODOV SHOULD HAVE RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH US, ARGUING THAT TO DO SO IS TO ENGAGE IN "IMPROPER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES" IN CONTRADICTION TO THE TERMS OF AGREED MINUTE II OF THE QA. FRENCH HAVE ALSO INDICATED THEY ARE TROUBLED BY WHAT THEY CON-

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SIDER TO BE "THREAT" BY KOZOBRODOV TO HAVE SOVIET PATROLS TAKE DOWN POSTERS. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH FRENCH THAT IT WAS CLEARLY IMPROPER FOR KOZOBRODOV TO RAISE THIS MATTER. IN OUR OPINION, THIS MATTER MAY JUST AS EASILY BE CONSIDERED A CONSULAR MATTER AS A POLITICAL ONE. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT KOZOBRODOV DISCUSSED A SIMILAR MATTER WITH SENAT OFFICIALS IN DECEMBER 1977 AND ALLIES DID NOT COMMENT ON IT AT THAT TIME. MISSION OFFICER WITH WHOM KOZOBRODOV SPOKE DID NOT REPEAT NOT INTERPRET KOZOBRODOV'S REMARKS AS A "THREAT" ALTHOUGH MISSOFF FELT IT NECESSARY TO RE-EMPHASIZE FOR THE RECORD THE POINT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE TO THE SOVIETS BY BRITISH POLAD AND US PROTOCOL OFFICER ON EARLIER OCCASIONS. WE BELIEVE MATTER SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REST AND WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST RAISING SUBJECT WITH SOVIETS EITHER IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL OR IN THE EMBASSIES. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMMUNISM, PRESS COMMENTS, SLOGANS, CONSULS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** SOVIET CONSUL ASKS ABOUT KBW POSTERS CRITICAL OF BREZ- NEV  
**TAGS:** PGOV, MILI, BQG  
**To:** BONN  
**Type:** TE  
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